

California State Senate

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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10TH SENATE DISTRICT



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Corbett Bill Protecting Public From E-Cigarette Harm Passes Senate

SB 648 Protects Public Health, Reduces Confusion

SACRAMENTO – Legislation authored by Senate Majority Leader Ellen M. Corbett (D-East Bay) passed the Senate Floor earlier today. SB 648 requires that electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) be regulated as a tobacco product and be included in existing California smoke-free laws.

Following on established federal court precedent that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has the authority to regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products, SB 648 seeks to ensure that California health authorities also protect state residents from the potentially harmful effects of e-cigarettes.

“SB 648 limits the use of e-cigarettes as they pose unknown health risks in a public space,” Senator Corbett said. “We must always stand on the side of public health since we still do not yet fully understand the safety of chemicals present in e-cigarette vapors or when nicotine itself leaks from the products. It simply makes sense to regulate e-cigarettes as a tobacco product when they are already prohibited in many public spaces.”

Concerns over the potential health risks of e-cigarettes has caused a growing number of state and local governments to prohibit their use in various public places—often under existing or new smoke-free laws. Amtrak has banned their use on trains, and the Navy banned them below decks in submarines. The U.S. Department of Transportation has also proposed a ban aboard airplanes because of concerns about health risks from vapors.

SB 648 is supported by Breathe California, California Medical Association and the California Black Health Network.